BOROUGH OF OKEHALPTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1941.

Mr.Mayor, Alderman & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit an interim Annual Report for the year 1941. The Registrar General's population figures for the year are given as 4,521 - those of the Food Office are 4,200. The former figures are used for statistical purposes.

Births showed a considerable increase over the previous years, and the birth rate of 14.8 as against 14.2 for England and Wales is the first time in my experience that the rate has exceeded that for the country as a whole. Deaths also showed a slight increase, but once again for the first time for a considerable period were less than the births. The death rate of infants under one year were 45 per thousand and also compares very favourably with 59 per thousand for England and Wales. The majority of people lived to a ripe age and this is particularly noticeable with the number of aged females.

Infectious diseases: A very severe epidemic of measles occurred in the Borough and apart from 101 cases which were officially notified there were probably as many others which did not receive official notification. Fortunately no deaths were recorded from this disease. The usual steps were taken for preventing spread, such as isolation of contacts, closing of departments and so on, but were not successful, and the disease ran its course in the classical manner.

No case of diptheria was notified in the Town, and this is no exception in your Borough since the very thorough immunization of child population which has been undertaken for the last six or seven years. The following table shows a very gratifying response to the immunization facilities afforded in the Town:-

Approx. number of children in area under 5 years of age	330.	Approx.number of children in area between 5 and 15 years of age.	1089
Immunized under 5 years of age.	71.3%	Immunized between 5 & 15 years of age.	92.6%

General Provision of the Health Services remained as previously, but I would like to mention what to my mind is a very satisfactory arrangement as regards the ambulance, which has now been taken over by the St.John's Ambulance Brigade and a St.John's Association has been formed to administer the financial arrangements of the ambulance. Patients being conveyed are now always accompanied by someone with first-aid training.

General inspection of the Borough has been maintained and slight nuisances were discovered and abated.

Once again Civil Defence arrangements in general, and that of the First-Aid Post in particular, have absorbed a considerable amount of time, and I am glad to report that in my opinion an efficient service now exists in the Borough to deal with a state of emergency.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population	Registrar General			4,521.
	Food Office			4,200.
Live Births		Male.	Female	Total.
	Legitimate.	32	28	60
	Illegitimate.	6	1	7
				67 Total.

Birth rate 14.8 per 1000 resident population
England and Wales 14.2.
Still births 4
Still birth rate 56 per 1000 live and still births.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	31.	33.	64.

Death rate 14.2. per 1000 population.
Adjusted death rate)
England and Wales) Suspended.
Deaths of infants under 1 year - 3
Death Rate of infants under 1 year 45 per 1000 live births
England and Wales " " 59 " " " "

AGE OF DEATH TABLE.

Age of death	Males.	Females.
Infants under 1 year.	2	1
1 - 5 years.	1	0
5 - 15 years.	0	0
15 - 25 years.	1	0
25 - 35 years.	1	0
35 - 45 years.	1	1
45 - 55 years.	3	3
55 - 65 years.	8	3
65 - 75 years,	7	7
Over 75.	7	18
	31	33
Total	64	

TABLE OF CAUSES OF DEATH

Measles	0	Pneumonia	4
Whooping Cough	0	Other respiratory diseases.	2
Influenza	1	Diseases of liver	0
Diarrhoea under 2 years.	0	Acute and Chronic nephritis	9
Tuberculosis of Resp.System	1	Diseases of digestive system	2
Other tuberclosis	0	Puerperal sepsis	0
Cancer	9	Congenital debility } prematurity }	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	5	Senility	0
Heart disease.	9	Typhoid	0
Other circulatory diseases	2	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	0
Bronchitis.	3	Other defined diseases.	14
		Total	64.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	1	Measles	101
Whooping Cough	4	Typhoid	0
Erysipelas	4	Diptheria	0
Tuberclosis - New cases	5		
Deaths	1		

I am, Mr.Mayor, Alderman & Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

(Sgd) E.D.ALLEN PRICE.

Medical Officer of Health.